

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 BIB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SR-02 ORM-01 EB-07

STR-04 OES-03 /097 W

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R 121204Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9208

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR US VN VS

SUBJECT: PRAVDA DISTORTS PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

1. TASS ACCOUNT OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, WHICH WAS FEATURED PROMINENTLY ON THE INTERNATIONAL PAGE OF PRAVDA APRIL 12, CONTAINS MORE DISTORTIONS AND TENDENTIOUS COMMENTS -- VIRTUALLY ALL OF THEM ON VIETNAM -- THAN WE HAVE SEEN IN A SOVIET NEWS REPORT ON AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IN QUITE SOME TIME.

2. EXAMPLES INCLUDE STATEMENTS:

-- THAT THE PRESIDENT SOUGHT NEW MILITARY AID AND "SO-CALLED ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR THIS PUPPET REGIME";

--THAT THIS DEMAND "SHOWS THE U.S INTENTIONS TO CONTINUE ITS POLICY OF FURTHER INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF
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VIETNAM";

--THAT THE PRESIDENT'S CALL TO SUPPORT THE THIEU REGIME IS
CONTRARY TO THE TERMS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT;

--THAT UNDER THE "PRETEXT (PREDLOG)" OF ASSURING THE
SECURITY OF AMERICANS AND VIETNAMESE WHO COOPERATE WITH THEM,
THE PRESIDENT SOUGHT CONGRESSIONAL RECONSIDERATION OF THE LAW
PROHIBITING HIM TO DISPATCH FORCES;

-- THAT IN CASE OF VITAL NECESSITY HE WOULD USE FORCES WITHOUT
CONSULTING CONGRESS;

--THAT THE PRESIDENT FOCUSED ON THE "REFUGEE PROBLEM" (TASS'S
QUOTES) IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY US ACTION BEFORE THE EYES OF THE
WORLD;

-- THAT THE REFUGEE PROBLEM RESULTED FROM THE FORCED DISPLACEMENT
OF PEOPLE BY THE THIEU CLIQUE;

-- THAT (CITING A PRG STATEMENT) THE REFUGEE PROBLEM WAS A NEW
MANEUVER TO JUSTIFY US INTERVENTION IN THE AFFAIRS OF SVN.

3. TASS PIECE ALSO TWISTS -- THOUGH SOMEWHAT MORE NORMALLY --
THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS ON TRADE LEGISLATION. IT DOES NOT
MENTION EMIGRATION, AND IT IMPLIES THE PRESIDENT'S FULL ADMISSION
OF THE SOVIET ARGUMENT THAT CONGRESS HAD INSISTED ON THE RESOLUTION
OF PROBLEMS "EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN THE INTERNAL COMPETENCE OF THE
SOVIET UNION." THE LONG PASSAGE ON TRADE ALSO FAILS TO MENTION
THE PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR REMEDIAL LEGISLATION.

4. ALSO ON VIETNAM, A PRAVDA COMMENTARY (APRIL 12) BY V.
SHURYGIN, CATALOGUES CHARGES AGAINST THE US AND SAIGON THAT
THE ALLEGED FORCED EVACUATION OF AREAS ABANDONED BY SVN FORCES
IS "A NEW CRIME OF THE SAIGON REGIME;" THAT "DEMOCRATIC"
PEOPLES OBJECT TO THE EVACUATION, ESPECIALLY OF BABIES, FROM
SOUTH VIETNAM; THAT REFUGEE RELIEF
IS AN ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE
U.S. INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM. SHURYGIN ALSO CHARGES THAT THE
EVACUATION OF THE SVN POPULATION IS A VIOLATION OF THE PARIS
AGREEMENT -- A NEW CHARGE BY MOSCOW, AS FAR AS WE KNOW. THIS
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LAST POINT IS ECHOED IN A TASS REPORT OF THE PRG CHARGE'S
PRESS CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW ON APRIL 11.

5. PRAVDA CARRIED A TASS ITEM REPORTING THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL
ON GROMYKO ON APRIL 11. TASS SAID ONLY THAT THEY DISCUSSED
VARIOUS MATTERS CONCERNING SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS, BUT DID NOT
MENTION VIETNAM OR THE U.S. NOTE AS THE SUBJECT OF THE CALL.
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